

**CLAIMS**

1. A method of segmenting a media object for transmission over a network (170), comprising the steps of:

partitioning a media object into at least two segments;

5 assigning at least one of said segments to a file partition handler (130,160);  
and

transmitting said at least one segment using an assigned user datagram protocol (UDP) port.

2. The method of Claim 1, comprising the steps of:

10 notifying a master controller that a file partition handler has transmitted said at least one segment; and

assigning an additional segment of said partitioned media object to said file partition handler for transmission.

15 3. The method of Claim 2, wherein said master controller operates at least two file partition handlers where at least one segment of said partitioned media object, constituting a major segment, is broken into minor segments, each minor segment being assigned to a file partition handler by said master controller.

20 4. The method of Claim 3, wherein said minor segments are successfully transmitted by said at least two file partition handlers before a second major segment is broken into minor segments and transmitted by said file partition handlers.

5. The method of Claim 2, wherein said master controller and file partition handlers are part of a server used to transmit said media object.

25 6. The method of Claim 2, wherein said master controller communicates with a second master controller using a Transmission Control Protocol and Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) based transmission scheme, and said file partition handlers communicates with a server using UDP ports.

7. The method of Claim 2, wherein said master controller keeps track of lost segments not successfully transmitted in a linked list, wherein said master controller

causes said file partition handler responsible for said lost segment to retransmit said lost segment.

5 8. The method of Claim 2, wherein said master controller reassigns said segment of said partitioned media object to a second file partition handler in response when said file partition handler fails to deliver said segment.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein said segment is transmitted using a multicast compliant transmission scheme for receipt by a plurality of clients.

10. A method for receiving a segmenting a media object for transmission over a network, comprising the steps of:

10 requesting a media object for transmission over a network (170);

receiving instructions as to the user datagram protocol (UDP) port used for receiving a segment of said media object, wherein said media object is partitioned into at least two segments; and

receiving said segment over said UDP port.

15 11. The method of Claim 10, wherein said request for said media object is placed by a master controller by a client, and said step of receiving a segment is coordinated by said master controller operating a file partition handler of said client.

20 12. The method of Claim 11, wherein said master controller during said step for said media object indicates a desired rate to receive said media object and the availability of resources at said client.

13. The method of Claim 10, wherein a client receives said segment as part of a multicast compliant transmission scheme for receipt by a plurality of clients.

25 14. The method of Claim 11, wherein said master controller communicates with a second master controller using a Transmission Control Protocol and Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) based transmission scheme, and said file partition handler communicates with a server using UDP ports.

15. An apparatus for transmitting a media object comprising:

a master controller (120, 150) for partitioning said media object;

30 a plurality of file partition handlers (130, 160) for transmitting segments of said partitioned media object, wherein

said master controller (120, 150) determines how to partition said media object in accordance with the available file partition handlers (130, 160), and said master controller (120, 150) assigns a segment of said partitioned media object to a file partition handler (130, 160) selected from said plurality of file partition handler.

5 16. The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein said file partition handler transmit said segment via a user datagram protocol (UDP) port.

17. An apparatus for receiving a media object comprising:

a master controller (120,150); and

10 a plurality of file partition handlers (130, 160) for receiving segments of a partitioned media object, wherein

said master controller (120,150) determines how to reconstruct said segments of said partitioned media object.

18. The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein said file partition handler receives said segment via a user datagram protocol (UDP) port.